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TAGS: [FR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [SY](#)  
SUBJECT: MFA SHARES SKEPTICISM ON SYRIAN ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 32528

Classified By: Political Minister-Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt, reasons  
1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche, along with a copy of the Department spokesman's March 8 statement, on March 29 to Jean-Christophe Auge, MFA Desk Officer for Syria. Auge expressed broad agreement with the demarche, adding that the SARG was unhappy with France because of its position on the Syrian elections. He noted that France remains concerned by the fact that several signers of the Damascus Declaration remain imprisoned due to their political activism. It is clear, he said, that the SARG does not want any attention drawn to their cases. Auge promised that the French will carefully consider our request that they make a statement both on the upcoming parliamentary elections and to highlight the plight of Syria's political prisoners.

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